

**From:** Peter Mastren  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am concerned about the lack of credible competition in the home PC marketplace. A perfect example of Microsoft's total dominance in this area can be found in the Fry's Electronics advertising supplement to the Houston Chronicle on two successive Fridays, Jan 11, 2002, and Jan 18, 2002.

In the January 11 issue there appeared an ad for an "Internet Ready Multimedia PC" complete with "Linux 1.3 Shell with Web Browsing, E-mail and Word Processing capabilities" for \$299.00 with a feature bullet item stating "Upgradable to Windows XP".

In the January 18 issue there appears the very same "Internet Ready Multimedia PC" but now "With Bonus: Windows XP" for \$399.00. The computer is \$100.00 more than it was just a week before and Windows XP is no longer an option but comes included in the "In Store Price".

The computer advertised on January 11 would satisfy the needs of many home computer users but it is no longer available. They must now pay an extra \$100.00 for the same computer and get a copy of Windows XP that they might not need nor even want.

How is this good for the consumer? How is this good for anyone but Microsoft? Where can I, as a consumer, go to find a computer that does not include Microsoft Windows? It's not possible, short of building my own computer from component parts, which is way beyond the abilities of most consumers!

Microsoft must be prohibited from including Windows in the purchase price of a new computer but should be required to offer it as an additional cost, optional upgrade. I demand the right to purchase a computer with the software I want, or no software at all, instead of being forced to pay for something I will not use.

I am concerned that the proposed settlement does nothing to prevent this type of abuse and that it will continue to be business as usual.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

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